Fertilizer Factory in Maharashtra

143. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for opening a new fertilizer factory in Maharashtra during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there is any plan to assist in construction of godowns in the state to stock fertilizers in the transport bottlenecks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per the industrial policy resolution dated 24th July, 1991, no license is normally required for setting up/expansion of fertilizer plants. Entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer projects anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearance. However, Public Sector Undertakings/Cooperative Societies under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers have to obtain approval of the Government before undertaking such capital expenditure beyond their delegated powers. At present, no proposal for setting up a new fertilizer factory in Maharashtra has been posed to the Government by the PSUs/Cooperative Societies for investment approval. However, Rashtriya Chemicals And Fertilizers Limited, a public sector undertaking, has submitted a proposal for expanding its Thal Ammonia-Urea Plant, at Thal in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 1332 crore to increase urea production by 7.68 lakh tonnes per annum for investment approval under the prescribed procedure. This proposal has been accorded 'in principle' approval by the Government subject to investment appraisal by the Public Investment Board (PIB) and such other clearances required.

(b) and (c) Maharashtra's entire requirement of urea, which is the only fertilizer under statutory price control at present, is met from allocations from fertilizer units located in and around the state, and there has been no reports from the State Government of shortage of urea due to transport bottlenecks. As far as availability of

decontrolled fertilizers in the state is concerned it is dependent on market forces operating within the parameters of the concession scheme for decontrolled fertilizers.

Demand of Fertilizers in Assam

144. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total demand of fertilizer in Assam;

(b) what is the total supply of fertilizers in the State;

(c) whether there is any short supply of fertilizers to the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under price, distribution and movement control of Government of India. The demand is assessed only of urea and allocation made under the Essential Commodities Act. All other fertilizers are decontrolled. The availability of fertilizers has been satisfactory in the State and there have been no reports of shortages.